

The Times-Dispatch

Business Office: Times-Dispatch Building
10 South Third Street.
Richmond, Va.
Telephone: 1000
Subscription Office: 1000
Subscription Office: 1000

BY MAIL. One Six Three One
Postage Paid. Year, Six Months, Three Months, One Month.
Daily with Sunday, \$10.00 \$5.00 \$2.50 \$1.50
Daily without Sunday, 4.00 2.00 1.00 .50
Sunday edition only, 2.00 1.00 .50 .25

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg.
Daily with Sunday, 12 cents
Daily without Sunday, 10 cents
Sunday only, 5 cents

Entered January 27, 1885, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1914.

FINDING OUR FRIENDS.

Surprises unnumbered have marked the campaign to procure one of the Federal reserve banks for Richmond. It was a surprise, for instance, to find that within three days of Richmond business men could organize and put into operation such effective machinery for publicity. It was another surprise to discover that in our efforts to bring the bank to Richmond we have anticipated by several weeks the activities of our principal rivals, Baltimore, for instance, is just beginning to urge its claims.

But the greatest and the most pleasant surprise was to find how many friends Richmond has—friends who are quick to urge the city's claims as a financial center. We have already noted and commented upon the generous expressions of the Danville Register and the Raleigh Times in their advocacy of our cause, and in our news columns we have reproduced a splendid editorial from the Fredericksburg Journal, in which that paper declares the cities of the Commonwealth should help Richmond, not only with their sympathy, but with their money.

Every day brings additions to the list. Our friend, the Harrisonburg News-Record, has this to say, in the course of an excellent editorial on the subject:

The Carolinas are united commercially and financially with Virginia. Their interests are largely in common with those of this State. Therefore, when the report came that it had been scheduled to put Virginia in a Northern district under the currency plan, and to put the Carolinas in a Southern district, thereby separating these States, the people of all three were speedily up in arms.

In the same line spirit the Newport News Press declares:

Richmond is easily the greatest financial center of the South, with the possible exception of New Orleans; it is one of the greatest commercial and manufacturing centers, and it has shown more rapidly within the past ten years than any other Southern city.

It has the location, it has the banking capital, it has the banking facilities, it has the brain and courage and every other qualification for conducting a national bank. It would be most appropriate, therefore, for the government to locate its Virginia-made system by locating one of the reserve banks in the capital city of the Old Dominion.

South Carolina, where the Richmond committee now is, the Greenville News anticipates their arrival by exploiting our claims at length. In part, that sterling newspaper says:

It is also true that Atlanta is in the midst of a cotton-growing country, and is, therefore, more or less dependent upon the crop conditions for its money. This being the case, Atlanta is subject to the same conditions to which Greenville is subject. If money is tight here, it would be tight there, and vice versa. On the other hand, Richmond has the money all the year round. Because the money is there, the strength of the regional bank would be greater than would be the case if the bank were in Atlanta or in some other Southern city.

We might add, however, that articles from the leading papers of friendly cities, but the purpose of all of them is the same. Bound by ties that have been welded through years of struggle, of adversity and of progress, our sister cities of Virginia and the Carolinas are as one with us in urging Richmond as the logical site for the bank.

Their arguments will prevail and Richmond will be chosen. Of this we are now convinced. But even were our campaign to end in failure, it would have been worth all it has cost in money and in energy, in that it has found Virginia and the Carolinas by a new tie, and has given evidence of a good-will and co-operation which will count in all our future endeavors for Southern progress.

From the Woolstock (Iowa) Leader: "George Streyer met with quite an accident last Tuesday, when coming home from Webster City in the night when coming over the bridge north of town met a horse and buggy coming onto the bridge and they, thinking that they were on the wrong side of the road, attempted to cross over directly in front of the oncoming auto, with the results that the buggy was badly broken up, but the occupants escaped any injury; it was a very narrow escape from all parties." We should say so.

"Everything" tells a story in its latest issue about Captain Mack Albricht, a popular conductor on the Southern, who used to spend his Sundays in Norfolk. He always went to church, and so one day the minister, we are told, asked him to take up the collection. "Being a conductor and ticket-taker, that was right in Mack's line, so he took the plate and started in. The plates and the pennies dropped into the plate until one large and wicked-looking slinger was approached, and he failed to come across. Mack kept holding the plate before him, and the man kept looking away from it. Presently Mack said in a loud tone of voice as he reached for an imaginary bell-cord, 'Pay, blame you, or I'll put you off.'"

"How can you unscrupulous clerk?" We commend all inquirers to Chief McReynolds, who is just now giving an exhibition with the New Haven as material.

THE PARADE OF VICE.

While the moving-picture drama of the alleged white slave trade was being presented at a local theatre last week, we carefully refrained from editorial comment on it. We felt that it had received enough free advertising through the "censorship," and we were determined not to swell the door receipts by denunciation or criticism. But now that the pictures have gone from Richmond, we wish to point out the danger they constitute.

So far as this particular performance was concerned, it was a very feeble melodrama, very poorly acted, and contained nothing that would have justified police interference. If it had dealt with any other subject, it would not have enjoyed more than a day's run at any of the five-cent theatres, if, indeed, it would ever have been produced. It drew large audiences and commanded a relatively high price, solely and only because its title suggested indecency and immorality.

And here is our first objection to this form of drama. Vice we have in America, vice that we must combat with cool reason, sane persistence. But we have decency as well, and decency which rebels at the portrayal of immorality merely for the money there is in it. We can never bring ourselves to countenance those motion-pictures, those so-called "problem" plays or those novels which base their appeal on the portrayal or discussion, it matters not in terms how chaste, of the base and ugly things of life.

We are strengthened in this conviction by observation of the people who flock to witness dramas of this doubtful type. Many mature persons go through life with a curiosity—a weakness they are privileged to indulge; others go in a mistaken belief that a great "moral lesson" is to be learned; but far more people patronize such dramas because they wish to feast upon the food of the thing—to pick out the suggestive and the indecent.

Can a fifteen-year-old boy learn a "great moral lesson" from a play which follows the career of some forlorn creature? Can a young girl profit by seeing paraded in luxurious splendor that life she has been taught to abhor as worse than death? The very question is preposterous! Inevitably and surely the boy will remember more of the suggestive incidents than of the moral; the young girl will take home with her, in far too many instances, not the picture of the victim, but of the prodigal leisure in which that victim lived. We cannot expect in youth that critical reflection and that moralizing discrimination which are the blessings of maturity. We cannot, accordingly, point up a "moral" lesson by "immoral" pictures.

Let us make ourselves perfectly plain. We believe, as we have often stated, that knowledge of sex hygiene should be a part of the education of all children. We believe that every mother and father are dangerously lax in their duty unless, in all the beauty and purity of parental love, they teach their children of the great mysteries of life and caution them against those evils that threaten our civilization. But we do not believe that suggestive dramas and questionable pictures, displayed to large, mixed audiences, can either take the place of the parent or fail to do far more harm than good. Were we able to carry our point, we should bar all children from every theatre where the least doubtful drama is presented, and we should ordain a special criminal statute for those base comedians whose equivocal jokes and indecent pranks are but soot and filth upon the purity of childhood.

The parade of vice has another and, in some respects, a scarcely less dangerous aspect. This is the inclination of theatrical producers, whether of drama or of motion-pictures, to exaggerate the subjects they treat. They have to do it. A drama based on white slavery as it exists in scattered cases would not be thrilling or appealing; even the most prudent minds would find it pathetic and distressing in its utter baseness. Consequently the picture is touched up—scenes are portrayed which never have, and never will be enacted in real life; the victim is made some fair girl, who is deceived by some man of high estate; all the melodramatic features of the popular "ten-twenty-third" hair-raiser are added. The result of this is not only misinformation, but needless fear and suspicion. For example, the girl who witnesses such a motion-picture drama as that presented last week in Richmond leaves the house convinced that every man is a knave, and that courtesy merely cloaks crime. From this there is but a step to hysteria—as to "poison needle" cases, to mania—such as seized the Russian girl who tried to commit suicide in a Richmond station some weeks ago.

We believe in protecting womanhood, but we believe in protecting manhood as well, and we cannot see in exaggerated reports of white slavery and the rest anything but need for alarm for girls who are perfectly safe and an inexcusable suspicion against men who respect honor and abhor vice.

The Court of Appeals of the Straits-Burma army corps may yet hear the sound of the recall.

Seven hundred Salvation Army officers have hired the entire second cabin of the Olympic for the eastbound trip of June 29. We mention the exact date to warn—well, those who need warning will know.

Such is fate. No sooner does Harry Thaw retire to the inside of the paper than the Duchess de Talleyrand, formerly the Countess de Castellane, formerly Miss Anna Gould, comes back on the front page. We have nominated her for the Perpetual Nuisance Club.

The chief page of the United States Senate has been lecturing before the Wilmington, Del. High School on the "Machinery of Legislation." Poor lad, being chautauquized already!

Mrs. Ida O. Tillman, postmistress of Geneva, Ala., has "surrendered" her office to her successor—the first of her name who ever did such a generous thing.

SPEAKER COX.

The removal of Hugh A. White from the campaign for the speakership of the House means the election of Edwin P. Cox, of Richmond. This, in turn, means the continuation of that era of good feeling which brought the nomination for Governor to Henry C. Stuart without a contest.

In congratulating Mr. Cox, we hope and believe that his exercise of his power will accord with the spirit which elevated him to office. We look to him for the display of a democracy which will be above faction, a democracy which will shape for Virginia a constructive program of helpful legislation.

Virginia has need; her legislators have opportunity. Before us there is the prospect of wise laws which will protect the people in the exercise of the franchise, invite rather than repel capital, check the diseases of society and rebuild a better State in which a better race may dwell. Those who are chosen to guide her councils and to lead her representatives have before them a magnificent field of service.

We welcome such a day, and we rejoice that it comes when the Democratic party is united. Better understanding, more hearty co-operation and more united purpose can but make for better laws. Yet we would not purchase concord at the price of inaction or cherish any other unity than that which comes from a free choice, honestly expressed and honestly registered by pure election laws.

Mr. Cox's nomination at to-night's caucus will be a tribute to him and to his long service in the House. But it will also be a call to him to lead in an effort to give Virginia the legislation she needs and to base that legislation on an honest primary law.

THE GREATER MEDICAL COLLEGE. With the practical assurance that the Board of Aldermen will to-night approve the hospital ordinance, those who have dreamed of Richmond as a great medical center see their dreams fast being fulfilled.

A great city for the study of medicine Richmond already is! On the rolls of the Medical College of Virginia are 525 students, doing work of a higher standard than ever before; to the dispensaries of the college come 500 patients every week day; in the lecture-rooms some of the leading scientists of the South are explaining to interested young men those new discoveries which are revolutionizing medicine and surgery.

The new hospital will be of great value to the city and of incidental value to our college. In the wards of the hospital, our workmen and our worthy sick can find shelter and treatment at the hands of an able staff; in the adjacent dispensaries, thousands of others will receive the care of competent physicians; Richmond will find better health through better attention to the needs of her citizens.

From the college and from the City Hospital a wider influence will extend. Even as new patients come to Richmond from the Carolinas and adjoining States, so we may expect them to increase in number as the reputation of the college becomes better known, and as the advantages of our many private hospitals are more widely advertised.

We may expect also that Richmond will profit by that movement which is consolidating medical education in a few cities of ample clinical and hospital facilities. This is the goal of those who are prepared to make large contributions for the training of physicians. The agents of these philanthropists, their experts, investigating conditions in all parts of the country, have decided that Richmond is one of the cities in the East where a great medical school can both flourish and serve. Accordingly, we may anticipate in time large endowments for our college, even as we are assured abundant clinical material, able teachers, sufficient hospital accommodations and a large student body.

Surely the friends of medical education need only to lift up their eyes to see the day when Richmond will stand first in medical education among the cities of the South!

There is some consolation about the fact that Harry Lenny and Tommy Dyke are leading figures in New York's last gangsters' shooting scrape. It is at least possible to spell their names.

Friends of Professor Taft will be glad to know that despite the fact that he lost the presidency he still has thirty-five pairs of trousers—pairs, we should say, for the benefit of our highbrow Texas friends.

We have infinite respect for a man who can bequeath \$250,000 and not take more than forty words to brag about his goodness in his will.

They are proposing a medal for a Pennsylvania parson who had the courage to beat a hotel clerk; but none has yet estimated the proper reward for that brave hero who will dare tell a hotel clerk his room is not comfortable.

Think of it. In the realm of Theodora, the lover of large families, a story-hearted immigration officer has had the nerve to send back a woman with two sets of twins!

Odessa has fallen, but what's the good? The next town besieged will have a name just as hard to pronounce.

Speaking of nerve, the man who announces himself as a rival of Colonel Gorgas for the vacant post of surgeon-general of the army will about take the palm.

It's a great pity that Camille Flaminio did not tell the world sooner that this is not 1914, but 1917. Think how many calendars we've printed—think how much time we've lost.

And still there be some brave spirits who keep that seat to which they glued themselves at 12:01 A. M., January 1, 1914.

WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

Confederate States Congress. In the Senate a bill was passed increasing the salaries of all civil officers and employees in the executive departments in Richmond, whose compensation salaries do not exceed \$2,000 per annum, from \$1,000 to \$1,500, provided the same shall not be increased beyond \$3,000 per annum.

On motion, the privilege of the floor of the Senate was extended to Major-General John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky.

In the House Mr. Goode, of Virginia, offered a resolution that a special committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the president for the use of the army of a share of the pork and bacon held by all persons in the country, who may have a full supply for the year on hand.

The Legislature. In the Senate a bill was reported making an appropriation for the education of disabled young soldiers, and the sons of those killed and who have died in the service.

Latest From Knoxville. Every church and hotel in the city is occupied as hospitals, as are also numerous large residences. The Yankees are confiscating the property of all Southern people. Hon. Joseph L. Mabry is now in parole. The Yankees took everything he had. The Federalists have closed Samuel Hamilton's jewelry store, on account of his Southern proclivities. Dr. Jackson afterwards took possession of it, but he was also closed up. Dr. Jackson is a British subject, and claimed protection as such. He has kept the British flag flying over his house, but old Brownlow denounced him as a traitor, rebel, and that settled it. The Federalists refused to recognize his claim.

From Charleston. A dispatch from Charleston says: Three shells exploded and five hit the city, but besides doing slight damage to two tall buildings, they were harmless. Nine shots were fired yesterday from a thirty-pounder on Fort Sumter, of which seven struck. Our batteries in Lighthouse Inlet have opened on the enemy on Block Island.

Scarcity of Market Supplies. We have never known the markets of Richmond to be so destitute of fresh meats and vegetables. In the Second Market yesterday indifferent fresh beef was retailing at from \$2 to \$2.25 per pound, while lamb and mutton went at much higher figures. Out of thirty-two stalls, twenty-three were entirely closed, and it is uncertain how much any of them will be able to offer anything for sale.

From the North. The Cincinnati Enquirer gives some statistics of the strength of the Democratic party in the North, that is, out in the cold and haven't got the heat and shoddy contracts, and hence wish a change of administration, that they may carry on the war on their own account. The Enquirer, an organ of States, and claim to show that the New England States can cast 188,000 Democratic votes, and all the other Northern and Western States, 1,139,000.

Loss of a Steamer. Information has been received that the steamer Dare, owned by the Richmond Importing and Exporting Company, in attempting to make Wilmington Harbor, was hit and near Georgetown, S. C., and the vessel and cargo entirely lost. After landing the naval officers at Lockwood's Ferry, the Dare was cut off by the enemy and broke down. The crew and passengers escaped.

No Passports. Hon. Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of State, publishes the following: "By virtue of the authority vested in him, by act of Congress, the President directs that no passports will be issued from the Department of State during the pending war to any male citizen, unless the applicant produces and file in the department a certificate from the proper military authorities that he is not liable to duty in the army."

Cold Weather. The late cold weather in Atlanta and throughout Georgia was the coldest felt in that section since 1834. The extreme thermometer in Atlanta January 1, 1861, indicated 2 degrees below zero, and on the morning of the 2nd, 3 degrees above. It was not quite so cold in Richmond, the lowest this month being 15 degrees above zero.

Yankee Steamer Blown Up. A dispatch from Wilmington, N. C., says: There was heavy firing all day yesterday at Lockwood's Ferry by eight monitors of the enemy. One Yankee gunboat was reported blown up. The explosion was heard in town.

Views of the Virginia Editors

"Agin 'Em." Hon. S. H. Love was one of the speakers at a suffrage debate held at Meheran last Friday night. Brother Love says the tide went against him. However, we have little sympathy with the poor of "Agin 'Em," and we are, therefore, in accord with anything that our representative says in opposition—Free State News.

Street Railroad. Any one who has ever lived in Radford loves it. From Radford radiate a myriad heart strings to points afar and near, and it is a surprise to find a prying number for so small a place, and ever and anon come back the messages of longing for this sweet town. And with the visitor it's just the same. One traveling for health, who has traversed much of the globe, writes back the same old message: "I love the place." Content and well Radford says—the fairest flower in the Virginia mountains—Radford News.

Abe Martin. Hon. A. B. Martin was one of the speakers at a suffrage debate held at Meheran last Friday night. Brother Martin says the tide went against him. However, we have little sympathy with the poor of "Agin 'Em," and we are, therefore, in accord with anything that our representative says in opposition—Free State News.

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THE UNITED STATES AND AVIATION.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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Views of Our Legislators on Virginia's Needs Measures Which Will Be Urged in the General Assembly

The Times-Dispatch has addressed to the members of the coming General Assembly a request for their views on a number of important questions that will come before them. In these columns we print from day to day the answers members have forwarded.

- Questions for Our Legislators.**
1. Are you in favor of making fraud in elections a felony?
 2. Do you favor effective laws prohibiting and punishing attempts to control voters by paying their poll taxes for them?
 3. Do you believe that the judges are clerks of primary elections should be appointed by party committees or in the manner provided by the laws governing general elections?
 4. Are you in favor of taking away from party committees the power to decide contested primary election cases, and placing said contests in the courts, where witnesses can be compelled to attend, and where false swearing may be punished as perjury?
 5. Are you in favor of a law prohibiting the judges and clerks from using their influence at the polls for or against any candidate at general and primary elections?
 6. What, in your opinion, is the solution of the tax question—do you favor segregation or a central board of equalization?
 7. Do you favor the enactment of additional legislation facilitating the collection of the \$1,516,449.50 delinquent poll taxes now overdue three years, exempting delinquents whose income is less than \$50 per month.
 8. Do you favor any change in the fee system? If so, do you think it ought to be entirely abolished or modified so as to require all fee officers to pay into the public treasury all fees collected by them over and above certain fixed, just compensation.
 9. Are you in favor of a law requiring all persons employed to influence legislation to register with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, stating by whom employed and paid and the amount of their compensation?
 10. Are you in favor of having open sessions of all legislative committees?
 11. Are you in favor of electing State delegates to the national convention at a primary election?
 12. Are there any other questions upon which you desire to express your opinion?

R. L. Pennington, of Lee.

1. I am not in favor of making election frauds a felony, not because it does not deserve such punishment, but because it would make convictions still more difficult than it is now. Original jurisdiction for punishment of fraud in elections should be exclusively in the Circuit or Corporation Courts.
2. I favor enactment of effective laws prohibiting payment of poll taxes to register with the party committees. This has been the most fruitful source of corruption in Southwest Virginia.
3. I believe that where primaries are held at all they should be protected by stringent laws against fraud, and the appointment of the judges and clerks to hold same should be just as carefully made by a legal board as the judges and clerk of the general election.
4. I have not fully made up my mind about this question.
5. Yes, but if the voter asks for information allow the judge or clerk to give such information or advice as is voluntarily sought by the voter.
6. I am opposed to the segregation of taxation and favor an equalization of assessment. In my opinion segregation would be ruinous to many counties in the State. If we have an equalized assessment then it is impossible for any one to get hurt. I believe it possible to enact laws which will give officers an equitable and equal assessment throughout the State.
7. I believe that every man assessed with poll taxes should be required to pay the assessment, excepting certain classes of old soldiers, and possibly those who are sick and disabled who are in the charity class.
8. I am opposed to putting county and city officers upon a salary basis unless we require them to make their salary out of the fees they collect for the work they do. If we did we would soon find we were losing a great deal more money than we would gain.
9. Not having had an experience as a legislator or as lobbyist, I am hardly competent to say what would be wise to do in reference to this question, but if experience has shown that legislation is being unduly influenced, the people throughout the State should know from whence comes the influence, and it appears to me that it would be very wise to require lobbyists to make known in some way to the public those whom they represent and the legislation they seek to have enacted.
10. I favor the open session of legislative committees with a right to go into executive session to discuss and pass upon the questions brought before them and to reach their conclusions.
11. I hardly see the necessity of a primary to elect State delegates to national conventions. While the convention method has been good many advantages. It has a good many advantages. Primary elections are costly, and since there are no delegates elected by the convention method, I am unable to see sufficient reason for the expense.
12. I meet, of Prince William.

C. J. Meetez, of Prince William.

1. I am most positively in favor of making fraud in elections a felony.
2. I favor the most stringent laws which will prohibit and punish any attempt to control voters by paying their poll taxes.
3. I am in favor of the party committees appointing the judges and clerks in primary elections.
4. I am in favor of taking from party committees the power to decide contested primary election cases and

placing said contests in the courts.

5. I most heartily favor prohibiting of judges and clerks of elections from using their influence at the polls for or against any candidate at general and primary elections.
6. My opinion in the solution of the tax problem is segregation as outlined by Auditor Moore, or a plan similar thereto.
7. As to the additional legislation for the collection of the \$1,516,449.50 delinquent poll taxes now overdue, I am not clear at this time.
8. I certainly do favor a change in the fee system, and believe the New Jersey law a good one. Abolish it as far as possible.
9. I am in favor of a law requiring all persons employed to influence legislation to register with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, stating by whom employed and paid, and the amount of their compensation.
10. I am not in favor of having all open sessions of legislative committees, because as it is by half a dozen are lights. I looked up, and just overhead was a meteor—possibly the remains of the one which had just passed over Petersburg. I would say it was as large as a moose, and it was moving in a northwesterly direction, traveling rather slowly for a meteor—about as fast as a bird. It seemed to be about as high as the house toward which it was moving. This would be not more than forty feet from the ground where I was standing. It was curving downward—that is, it came nearer the earth as it passed on. While traveling upward, it gradually diminished in brightness, and when it had passed about fifteen or twenty yards beyond me it almost suddenly went out, and I would say that during this short part of its course it became smaller. I listened for it to strike the house, but I heard nothing. Next day I looked for some evidence of it, but could find nothing. I can only compare it to a rocket fired at a slight elevation, but there were no fireworks or rockets of any kind in the neighborhood. All was quiet and still, but it was rather dark. This is the nearest I ever was or ever wish to be to a live coal from another world.

That Petersburg Meteor.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—Your Petersburg correspondent says that "a meteor of large size and great brilliancy passed over this section in a northwesterly direction between 7 and 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening." On the same evening I was on the bank of the old homestead, near the Appomattox River, where the Southern Railway crosses into Amelia County, when somewhat suddenly the laws were lighted up as if by half a dozen are lights. I looked up, and just overhead was a meteor—possibly the remains of the one which had just passed over Petersburg. I would say it was as large as a moose, and it was moving in a northwesterly direction, traveling rather slowly for a meteor—about as fast as a bird. It seemed to be about as high as the house toward which it was moving. This would be not more than forty feet from the ground where I was standing. It was curving downward—that is, it came nearer the earth as it passed on. While traveling upward, it gradually diminished in brightness, and when it had passed about fifteen or twenty yards beyond me it almost suddenly went out, and I would say that during this short part of its course it became smaller. I listened for it to strike the house, but I heard nothing. Next day I looked for some evidence of it, but could find nothing. I can only compare it to a rocket fired at a slight elevation, but there were no fireworks or rockets of any kind in the neighborhood. All was quiet and still, but it was rather dark. This is the nearest I ever was or ever wish to be to a live coal from another world.

Voice of the People

G. E. WRAY.

The Key-Note of Success

The key-note of success is system. Every successful business man systematizes his financial affairs. A checking account with this bank will prove to be one of the means by which you establish confidence among your business associates and by which you attain recognized success. Deposits subject to check—whether large or small—are cordially invited.

National State and City Bank
1111 East Main Street